GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1620
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
INDO-U.S. TIES
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any change has been observed by the Indian Government in the U.S. policy towards Kashmir, trans-border terrorism and sanctions after the Bush Administration came to power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The U.S. State Department spokesman stated on 24th January, in response to a question relating to Government`s initiative with regard to Jammu and Kashmir, that `we welcome the announcement by the Indian Cabinet...we believe that the peace process will be greatly enhanced if the Kashmiri militant groups responded positively to India`s announcement by taking steps to halt the violence`. In this context he also stated that the Government of Pakistan ` should use its influence with the militant groups, to urge them to halt the violence`.

The U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 17th February 2001 that he wi `review all of the sanctions, and especially with respect to India, to see whether this is the time to move forward and to remove the remaining sanctions that are in place`.

President Bush has conveyed to the Prime Minister his belief that India and the U.S. have great potential for increased cooperation and his desire to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries.